

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COMMISSION DIRECTIVE**

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| ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER | <input type="checkbox"/> | DATE | <u>January 27, 2021</u> |
| MOTOR CARRIER MATTER | <input type="checkbox"/> | DOCKET NO. | <u>2020-195-E</u> |
| UTILITIES MATTER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ORDER NO. | <u>2021-66</u> |

THIS DIRECTIVE SHALL SERVE AS THE COMMISSION'S ORDER ON THIS ISSUE.

Order Granting Suspension of Virtual Public Hearing and Instruct Clerk's Office to Issue a Notice of Cancellation of Virtual Public Hearing

SUBJECT:

[DOCKET NO. 2020-195-E](#) - Joint Petition of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Approval of Accounting Order to Defer Incremental COVID-19 Expenses to Be Included in Future Rate Proceedings - Staff Presents for Commission Consideration the Office of Regulatory Staff's Request for Suspension of the Filing of Status Report and Public Hearing Scheduled for March 4, 2021.

COMMISSION ACTION:

By letter dated January 15th, 2021, the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") requested that the Commission suspend the dates for the ORS Report and the public hearing currently scheduled for March 4, 2021. The ORS asserts that the parties need additional time and opportunity to conduct more discovery and to review updated information concerning Duke's request for an accounting order, as well as to research the recently enacted federal laws addressing COVID aid and recovery.

As background, this proceeding is a request from Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC (collectively "Duke Companies") for an Accounting Order, meaning that the Duke Companies are requesting to account for, or track, certain expenses that the utility may seek recovery of in a future rate proceeding. There may or may not be an impact on the future rate of the customer. While the Accounting Order Petition does provide some information on costs and impact, it is premature to conduct the public hearing until ORS has completed its review and report.

I move that the Commission grant the request of ORS to suspend the date of the Virtual Public Hearing scheduled for March 4, 2021. I believe that the Status Report from the ORS Audit is needed prior to any action in this matter. The Commission will revisit this issue after receipt of the ORS Report filed on or before March 29, 2021.

I further move that the Clerk's Office is instructed to prepare and submit the Notice of Cancellation of the March 4, 2021 Virtual Public Hearing to the Duke Companies no later than January 29, 2021.*

I further move that the Clerk's Office is instructed to contact any person presently signed up to speak at the virtual public hearing and to notify them that the public hearing has been cancelled at this time and that the Commission will revisit this issue after receipt of the ORS Report filed on or before March 29, 2021.

With regard to the request of ORS to suspend the filing of Status Report, I note that the ORS was previously granted an additional ninety (90) day extension to complete discovery. While the ORS states that it has received information from the Duke Companies, additional information is needed. I move that the Commission provide ORS with an additional sixty (60) day extension of time to provide the Status Report for its audit and review. ORS is requested to provide the Status Report no later than March 29, 2021.

I so move.

*In discussion by Commissioners during the Business Meeting on January 27, 2021 relative to this Motion, it was noted that only one person has currently signed up for the virtual public hearing scheduled for March 4, 2021 which was part of the rationale for this change when suspending the public hearing. It was further clarified that there is no requirement for the Duke Companies to send a notice of cancellation to its customers and that the Notice of Cancellation provided by the Clerk's Office shall be provided to all parties in this Docket, not just to the Duke Companies, through the Docketing Management System ("DMS"). The Clerk's Office will advise anyone seeking to sign up for the previously scheduled public hearing that the hearing has been cancelled.

PRESIDING: Belser

SESSION: Regular

TIME:

11:00 a.m.

| | MOTION | YES | NO | OTHER | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| BELSER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Present in Hearing Room |
| CASTON | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Voting via Skype |
| ERVIN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Voting via Skype |
| POWERS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Voting via Skype |
| THOMAS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Voting via Skype |
| C. WILLIAMS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Voting via Skype |
| J. WILLIAMS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Absent</u> | Sick Leave |

(SEAL)

RECORDED BY: J. Schmieding

